

MINUTES  
MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, October 4, 2010  
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: R. Favretti (Chairman), M. Beal, J. Goodwin, K. Holt, G. Lewis (7:05), P. Plante, B. Ryan,  
Members absent: R. Hall, B. Pociask  
Alternates present: F. Loxsom, K. Rawn  
Alternates absent: V. Stearns  
Staff present: G. Meitzler (Wetlands Agent)

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and appointed alternates Rawn and Loxsom to act in member absence.

**Minutes:**

9-7-10 – Beal MOVED, Plante seconded, to approve the 9-7-10 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9-16-10 Field Trip- Ryan MOVED, Holt seconded, to approve the 9-16-10 field trip minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with Beal, Holt, Favretti, Ryan and Rawn in favor and all others disqualified.

**Communications:**

The 9-15-10 draft Conservation Commission minutes and the 9-28-10 Wetlands Agent's Monthly Business report were noted. Favretti asked Meitzler for an update on the Mirror Lake Dredging that was scheduled to be completed this summer. Meitzler reported that certain issues related to CT-DEP approval have yet to be resolved; hence the delay.

Holt MOVED, Ryan seconded, to add to the agenda under New Business a new application File W1463, Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Old Business:**

**W1462 - Town of Mansfield - Laurel Lane bridge replacement**

Holt MOVED, Ryan seconded, to grant an Inland Wetlands License under the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield to the Town of Mansfield (file no. W1462), for replacement of the Laurel Lane Bridge over the Mount Hope River, on property owned by the applicant, located approximately 725 feet east of CT Route 89, as shown on a map dated 8/2/10 and as described in other application submissions.

This action is based on a finding of no anticipated significant impact on the wetlands, and is conditioned upon the following provision being met:

1. Appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls (as shown and stated on the plans) shall be in place prior to construction and maintained during construction and removed when disturbed areas are completely stabilized.

This approval is valid for a period of five years (until October 4, 2015), unless additional time is requested by the applicant and granted by the Inland Wetlands Agency. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**New Business:**

**W1463 - Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station- Schoolhouse Brook Park**

John C. Clausen, Natural Resource & Environment Professor at the University of Connecticut, reviewed the proposal to treat nine 20'x 20' plots of phragmites in Schoolhouse Brook Park. The phragmites will be covered with black plastic for various periods of time to determine the most effective length of time for this treatment. Clausen added that the proposal includes involving E.O. Smith Vocational Agriculture students in all steps of this research project. He related that the DEP determined that this is a conservation activity which is exempt from DEP permits and he expects to receive a letter stating so. He also has applied for a parks and recreation permit from Jennifer Kaufman.

Favretti asked Clausen how the covered plots will affect wildlife. Clausen indicated that they expect no impact to larger wildlife, but the smaller amphibians and micro-organisms may be affected. Beal questioned how long it will take for the phragmites to grown back and if there are any plans to control it beyond the experiment. Clausen stated that tracking re-growth is part of their research. Loxsom confirmed with Clausen that no herbicides will be applied. Clausen state that 6 millimeter plastic was chosen in response to Holt's question regarding plastic thickness.

Favretti noted no further questions or discussion. Holt MOVED, Ryan seconded, to permit the Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station to proceed with a research program, on the Harrison Property within the Schoolhouse Brook Park (a town-owned property located at the northeast corner of the Clover Mill and Storrs Road intersection) to investigate the control of the invasive species phragmites within wetland areas, as described in information on the planned program submitted for review (dated May 26, 2010).

The Agency finds this work to be consistent with Section 4.2 of the Mansfield Wetlands Regulations that provides for non-regulated status for conservation of vegetation and wildlife, and to encourage wildlife and vegetation management.

This program stands to be of broad benefit to wetlands, and is intended to achieve control of this widespread invasive species without the use of pesticides in a manner that should be useful to individual homeowners.

This approval is valid for a period of five years (until October 4, 2015), unless additional time is requested by the applicant and granted by the Inland Wetlands Agency. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within three years. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**W1414 - RF Crossen Contractors LLC - Storrs Rd - subdivision bond release.**

Holt MOVED, Beal seconded, to release the \$5,000.00 bond held by the Town of Mansfield, to R.F. Crossen Contractors, LLC (File W1414) upon the completion of the 6-lot subdivision, Windwood, located on Route 195-Storrs Road.

There is one remaining condition to be addressed before granting the release: all silt fencing shall be removed from throughout the site. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Other Communications and Bills:**

Rawn noted that he has signed up for the DEP Training Segment 3.

**Adjournment:**

Favretti declared the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Holt, Secretary